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Author, Social Justice Advocate Jonathan Kozol to Speak at Cal Poly on Nov. 17

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Jonathan Kozol – a teacher, author and advocate for social justice – will begin Cal Poly’s 2009-10 Provocative Perspectives series with a speech on campus Tuesday, Nov. 17. The talk is free and open to the public.

The event will take place at the Performing Arts Center Pavilion, beginning with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and Kozol’s talk at 8 a.m.

Kozol’s lecture is titled “The Shame of the Nation: Killing Off the College Options for the Children of the Poor from the Day They Enter Public School.” It will address Kozol’s belief that minority and poor students have severe difficulty in gaining admission to and graduating from the nation’s best universities because of inherent inequalities they encounter early in the K-12 public education system.

The author of more than a dozen books on education social justice – including “Death at an Early Age,” “Savage Inequalities,” “The Shame of a Nation,” and “Letters to a Young Teacher” – Kozol examines what he sees as inequalities in education, including increasing racial segregation of public schools in the nation’s major cities and gaps in per-student funding between wealthy school districts and those where poorer people live.

He also works in Washington, D.C., lobbying for radical revisions to the punitive aspects of the No Child Left Behind act.

This event marks the start of the seventh year of Cal Poly’s Provocative Perspectives speaker series. Provocative Perspectives is sponsored by the Vice President for Student Affairs and brings challenging speakers to the campus to give faculty, staff, students and community members a chance to hear diverse voices on important issues.

For more information, contact Liz Cofer at 756-0327 or lcofer@calpoly.edu. People with disabilities may request accommodations in advance by contacting the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at 805-756-1521.

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